

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Watkins on 5/19/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Claims 44 and 45** have been cancelled.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

**Claims 9, 11-13, 15, 17-22, 24, 31-42 and 46-49** are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 9, 15, 19, 33 and 49: These claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the latter, either alone or in combination, does not disclose nor render obvious a method of forming a seal on a cable by providing a cable having a portion of an overlayer removed and a metal plated bonding layer covering the exposed material, applying a bonding agent to at least a portion of the metal plated bonding layer that is applied by placing a region of the cable into a mold and applying epoxy to a region of the fiber for a sufficient time to bond the epoxy to at least a portion of the metal plated surface or a fiber cable having a plurality of fibers having a first region having a

first coating, a second region having no coating, a third region having a second coating, a metal-plating applied to at least a portion of the second region, an epoxy seal bonding to the metal plating of at least some of the fibers in the second region and extending partly into the first and third regions, in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations.

With regard to claims 11-13, 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 31, 32, 34-42, 46-48: These claims are allowable over the prior art of record because they depend from allowable claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Lepisto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ryan Lepisto/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2883

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